



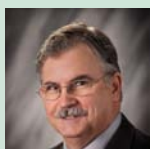
MEET YOUR EVERGREEN BOARD OF TRUSTEES



Robert Vasseur (Chair)
Ward 2 – Spruce Grove

With 30-plus years on the board, Robert Vasseur is ready for a busy term. “The next three years will be very interesting with the province’s priority on the new education plan “Inspiring Education” and the review of the School Act. The future will bring challenge to all school boards, including Evergreen.”

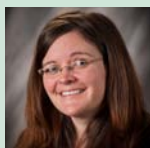
Vasseur said Alberta Education’s ideas will be a massive undertaking for all boards to implement. The changes will require cooperation between school boards and all agencies involved in education.



Ronald McKay (Vice Chair)
Ward 4 – Hinton

Returning for a sixth term, Ron McKay is ready to take on the many exciting opportunities to improve education over the next three years.

Ron’s focus will be to ensure proper policies and procedures are in place for safe use of technology by students. “Technology including social media poses new ways for students to potentially bully other students – a concern educators need to be aware of.” McKay said.



Anne Gauthier
Ward 1 - Stony Plain

As one of two first-term Trustees elected to the board, Anne is excited to learn more about her new role as Trustee. “I work as Pastoral Assistant at Holy Trinity Parish and have always been very interested in Catholic education and am excited to now be a part of the process.”

Gauthier says, “One of the many challenges I expect to face are dealing with a growing student population while maintaining the highest quality of education. Overcrowding at schools is a big concern, so keeping class sizes small is an important issues facing the board.”



Richard Yaceyko
Ward 2 – Spruce Grove

It’s a very important time for education in Alberta and Richard Yaceyko is very excited to have been elected for a third term on the board.

“I want to pick up where the board left off, working with the province and getting down to business with “Inspiring Education.”, he said. “The biggest issue with the province’s report will be figuring out how to fund the plan.”



Joseph MacLellan
Ward 2 - Devon

Starting his fourth term on the board, Joseph MacLellan is anticipating many challenges. “The change in Alberta education is imminent and I’m looking forward to the era of accelerated change, noting the opening of the School Act and the province’s ‘Inspiring Education.’”

Schools are facing many technological changes, which is very exciting although must be met with some apprehension, he said. “With the fast pace of changes in the world around us, we all must remember the importance of maintaining our foundation.

MacLellan is also excited about continuing work on the new high school

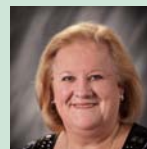


Mel Malowany
Ward 2 – Spruce Grove

Former Evergreen superintendent Mel Malowany is ready to be involved in Catholic Education again, albeit in the role of Trustee. Malowany is excited about the construction of the new high school in Spruce Grove, St. Peter the Apostle, which is scheduled to open in 2012. He said “It will be exciting to work on re-allocating the student population between the new and existing schools.”

Malowany said his previous administrative experience and knowledge will be extremely help-

ful in his new role as a trustee. He is looking forward to working with the province on their ongoing changes to education.



Caren Mueller
Ward 3 – Westlock

A 15-year member of the board, Caren Mueller is looking forward to another term. Like her fellow board members, she is excited about the many changes proposed for the education system. She said, “The biggest issue will be adequate funding for all schools.” She will strive for all students to have the newest technology available to them and money is usually the only barrier to that. She said, “Ensuring students are getting the best classroom experience is an important priority.



Marian Walshe
Ward 1 – Stony Plain

Marian Walshe is returning to the Board for a third term, and is excited about further discussion with the province regarding changes to the education system. Over the next three years, she is looking forward to continuing work with the community, local non-profits and the church. An upcoming highlight for Marian will be when Evergreen hosts the ACSTA Conference in March 2011.

Walshe has many issues on her radar, including working with increasingly tight budgets and ensuring schools continue to maintain small class sizes. She also said, “It will be very important for all Catholic school boards to talk about the value of Catholic Education, now that the province is reviewing the School Act.”



EVERGREEN MAINTAINS HIGH STANDARDS IN ACCOUNTABILITY PILLAR

Evergreen Catholic Schools received excellent grades from the provincial government in the annual Accountability Pillar — a study that uses Provincial Achievement Tests, Diploma Exams and survey data from students, parents and teachers.

“We received excellent scores, which is consistent with what has occurred over the past number of years,” said Superintendent Cindi Vaselenak. “We improved in areas such as Safe and Caring Schools and in the number of students who are staying in school. We maintained our standard of a high level of achievement in many areas, which we are very proud of.”

Evergreen Catholic received excellent evaluations in the areas of Safe and Caring Schools, an area in which they have been consistently rated above the provincial average. Evergreen was commended for an overall high quality of education and a well-rounded program of studies — rating above the provincial average in both those areas.

The division has an extremely low drop out rate, indicating more students are staying in school and completing their diploma requirements.

“A low drop out rate indicates our students are succeeding and will continue their education after they graduate,” said Vaselenak. “It shows that we have the programs, technology and teachers that encourage students to continue their education, which is our greatest accomplishment.”

Accountability Pillar measures are combined into seven categories, which track a jurisdiction’s progress towards reaching their education goals. Each category consists of measures evaluated both individually and as a group on both achievement (comparison against fixed provincial standards) and improvement (comparison against previous performance). An overall evaluation for each measure and each category is made by combining both the achievement and improvement results. ■

BOARD SELECTS NEW CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR

After serving more than 30 years on the Board, Robert Vasseur has been elected to his first term as Board Chair.

“I couldn’t be more pleased to be chosen to lead our Board into the next term of office. I have been given a gift,” he said.

Vasseur said he is excited to continue the high standard of education that Evergreen has been known for over the years.

“As you probably know, provincial achievement testing and our own parent surveys tell us that education standards and achievements at Evergreen are, frankly, superb. So I’m obviously very proud of what all of us — our teachers, administrators and our Board — have

done in our district. That said, we are looking at possibly huge changes in education in Alberta, and it’s expected that this should happen over a rather short term. We’re going to have far more work and much more to accomplish in the coming months than ever.”

Vasseur said he is confident the Board will have the energy and excitement to lead the division through these huge changes.

“There’s potential for a great deal of changes taking place and we are here to ensure they happen properly. We’re in for the challenge.”

Ron McKay, a 15-year member of the Board representing Hinton, was elected to serve as the Board’s vice chair for the term. ■

OUTREACH SCHOOL IS A NEEDED ALTERNATIVE FOR MANY STUDENTS

The Evergreen Catholic Outreach School (ECO) is exactly what you would call “alternative learning.” It’s not a traditional high school in any sense of the term. What makes it unique and why has it become so popular with students?

“It’s the environment and the atmosphere that our students appreciate,” said Principal Ray Côté. “It’s independent learning that many students respond to very well and it’s the one-on-one time our teachers can give to all our students.”

Evergreen Outreach caters to many students in many situations. Currently, Côté said there are many students attending the school who have already graduated, but have come back to upgrade some of the courses.

“They will get out into the work force and realize they don’t have the grades to get into post secondary, so we help them achieve those marks so they can get into school,” he said.

Other students just need one or a few credits to graduate, and Outreach is the best option to earn those credits.

ECO is also popular with students currently attending one of the three Evergreen high schools. Some are repeating courses that they weren’t successful in the first time or are taking classes that are available at Outreach but not at their high school.

Out of town students in Westlock and Hinton are connected to the school with videoconferencing and a toll-free phone number, so communication is very easy.

“If an out of town student has a question, and needs to talk to a teacher, it’s very easy for them either through videoconferencing or over the phone,” he said. Work is sent in by e-mail so the out of town students don’t physically have to attend the school.”

ECO is also very attractive to students who prefer to work independently and didn’t like the large high school atmosphere, Côté said.

For others, it’s the schedule that makes Outreach work for them.

“Some of our students have to work in the afternoon, so they come to school in the morning. Others just like to sleep until noon,” he said. “We have a great attendance policy and that is you have to attend to your work — that’s it.”

As long as students are meeting their deadlines and working on schedule, they can come in as often or as little as they choose.

“Our school brings out the best in motivated students,” said Côté.

Evergreen Catholic Outreach also offers Work Experience and Registered Apprenticeship Programs for its students. ■



Schools:

Holy Spirit - Devon

John Paul II - Stony Plain

St Mary - Westlock

St Joseph - Spruce Grove

St Marguerite - Spruce Grove

St Thomas Aquinas - Spruce Grove

Evergreen Outreach & Distance Learning Centre - Spruce Grove

Gerard Redmond CCS - Hinton

St Gregory CES - Hinton